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A few days before the above testimonial was delivered to him in the name of the Church and School, Andrew Melville had taken his leave of the Council of State. The fact is recorded in the following entry :

“André Melvin s'est présenté icy, priant Messieurs avoir à gré le service qu'il a faict à la Seigneurie, estant régent à l'escole. Arresté qu'on luy réponde qu'on se contente de son service, luy donnant gracieux congé.” (Register of the Council, April 5, 1574.)

Melville's garden in the college precincts was inherited by a refugee of St. Bartholomew, who had become Professor of Arts in the Academy, and whom he had also the rare opportunity of hearing in the only courses of public lectures which the celebrated scholar ever gave in his long life. This was Joseph Scaliger. Under the date of March 16, 1574, the Secretary of the Council entered :

“*Joseph Scaliger.* Estant proposé qu'il désireroit avoir ung jardin, arresté qu'on luy baille celuy de M^r Melvin, qui s'en va en France, comment on dit.”

According to James Melville, his uncle left for Lyons, Orleans and Paris. He sailed from Dieppe for England. From London he took his journey by Berwick to Edinburgh, where he arrived in the beginning of July.

*2. Journal of Philip Fithian, kept at Nomini Hall, Virginia,
1773-1774.*

THE following pages contain selections from the journal kept by Philip Vickers Fithian, while tutor in the family of Councillor Carter of Nomini Hall, Westmoreland County, Virginia. Philip Fithian was born in Greenwich, New Jersey, December 29, 1747. After three years of schooling under the Rev. Enoch Green of Deerfield, N. J., he entered Princeton College, November 30, 1770, being admitted to the Junior Class, and graduating in September, 1772, in the same class with Aaron Burr. The year following was spent in the study of theology, under his old friend and teacher Dr. Green of Deerfield, his ambition being admittance to the Presbyterian clergy. It was in the fall of 1773 that he received a letter from Dr. Witherspoon, offering him a situation in the family of Robert Carter of Virginia, stating that he had recommended him to his old friend as a tutor, and advising him to accept, if only temporarily. Though warned against the danger he incurred, both moral and physical, by venturing into such a sea of temptation, as many prejudiced people then regarded the South, he decided to accept ; and thus it was he came to Nomini Hall. It is pleasing to note how agreeable was

the surprise when instead of the anticipated revelry and vice, he found only culture and refinement; an elegance of living and a courtliness of manner, perhaps equalled by few in the colonies. Robert Carter, called the Councillor, was a grandson of the famous "King" Carter of Corotoman, noted for his immense wealth and boundless possessions. The Councillor was a man of great culture and refinement, with a taste for retirement and study. He loved rather a quiet life with his family upon his estate at Nomini Hall, than the gayeties of the governor's court at Williamsburg. He was a member of the King's council which sat at Williamsburg; it was probably this position, which he held at the time of the war, that led him to discountenance all dissensions with that King, whom he in a sense represented, and caused him to take no part in the struggle for independence. Toward the close of his life he became in reality a recluse, seldom leaving his place, or visiting his neighbors, so that little is known of his last years, save that they were devoted to religion, the form of which he changed many times.

Of Nomini Hall and its surrounding buildings nothing now remains, it having been destroyed by fire in 1850. The beautiful avenue of grand old poplars is still the pride of the place and survives all the many changes of time. The ruins of the mill and dam are still to be seen, though the upper channel is filled with mud and is long since closed to navigation.

Philip Fithian, after leaving Councillor Carter's, entered the ministry,¹ and soon after the outbreak of hostilities enlisted as chaplain in a New Jersey regiment, and served during the campaign on Long Island and New York. He was taken sick and died at Fort Washington, of a camp epidemic, just before the capture of that place by the British.² In conclusion the editor of these pages wishes to say that it is through the courtesy and kindness of the present owner of these manuscripts, a member of the Fithian family, that he has been enabled to place them before the public, for which he is most sincerely thankful.³

JOHN ROGERS WILLIAMS.

¹ He is said to have been a member of the "New Jersey Tea Party," at Greenwich, December 22, 1774. See *New Jersey Archives*, X. 532.

² Heitman, *Historical Register*, s. v., says that he was "killed on the retreat from New York, September 15, 1776," which was the day of the action at Kip's Bay.

³ The journal now preserved is not, in this portion, the original manuscript, but a copy made by the writer's nephew, Rev. Enoch Fithian, apparently about 1820. The footnotes appended to the printed text are partly by Mr. J. R. Williams, of Princeton University, partly by the editor. The dates have been expanded in form, and have been given a different place from that which they occupy in the manuscript; otherwise the latter has been literally followed.—Ed.

1773, *Saturday, October 23*.¹ Expence at Baltimore 15/3. Rode and forded Petapsko to a small Tavern 15 Miles. Expence 1/11. Rode thence to Blandensburg [Bladensburg] 23 Miles. Whole Distance 38 Miles. Whole Expence 17/2.

Sunday, October 24. Expence at Blandensburg 5/7. Rode thence to George-town 8 Miles. Expence 1/6. Ferriage /6. From thence we rode by *Alexandria*, 9 Miles. Thence to Colchester 18 Miles. Dined. Expence 3/9. Ferriage /6. Rode thence to Dumfries 10 Miles. Whole distance 45 Miles. Whole Expence 11/4.

Monday, October 25. Expence at Dumfries 4/5. Rode thence to Aquia 10 Miles. Expence 2/4. Rode thence to Stafford-Court-House 12 Miles. Whole Distance 22 Miles. Whole Expence 6/6.

Tuesday, October 26. Expence at Stafford 5/. Stopped at Colonel Thomas Lee's,² only a few Rods from Stafford Tavern. Continued there all day, and the following Night. Expence to Day 5/.

Wednesday, October 27. Expence to boy 1/. Rode from Mr. Lees to a small poor Ordinary 13 Miles. Expence /8 for Oats. Rode thence, without feeding to Captain Cheltons, on the Potowmack 32 Miles. Whole Distance 45 Miles. Whole Expence 1/8.

Thursday, October 28. Rode after Breakfast to the Honorable Rob : Carters the End of my Journey ; 12 Miles, by two o-Clock in the Afternoon. Both Myself, and my Horse seem neither Tired nor Dispirited. Occasional Expences on the Road. In Baltimore for some Buff-Ball 1/6. In Blandensburg for having straps put to my Saddle-Bags 3/. In Colchester for Shaving and Dressing 1/3. The whole 5/9. So that my whole Distance appears to be 260 Miles, performed in seven days. And my whole expence appears to be £ S D
3 . . 6 . . 6.

Friday, October 29. Settled myself in the Room appointed me, and adjusted my affairs after my Ride.

Saturday, October 30. Rode with Mr. Carters eldest Son to a Store, about seven Miles. Bought half a Box of Wafers for 1/. And a quire of paper for 1/6. Dined at three. And rode into Richmond Parish 15 Miles to Mr. Fantleroy. Was introduced to Mr. Fantleroy, two of his Sons, Mr. Christian a dancing-Master.

Sunday, October 31. Rode to Church six Miles. Heard Mr. Gibbern³ preach on Felixes trembling at Pauls Sermon.

Monday, November 1. We began School. The School consists of eight. Two of Mr. Carters Sons, One Nephew, And five Daughters. The eldest Son is reading Salust : Gramatical Exercises, and latin

¹ Fithian had left his home, in southern New Jersey, on October 19.

² This Col. Thomas (Ludwell) Lee was the second surviving son of President Thomas Lee and was a brother of Philip Ludwell and Richard Henry. He was prominent in the political movements of the times.

³ Rev. Isaac William Giberne, rector of Lunenburg Parish from 1762, for perhaps twenty years. He was an Englishman (said to have been a nephew of the Bishop of Durham), a man of much wit and talent, and noted for his convivial habits.

Grammer. The second Son is reading english Grammar Reading English : Writing, and Cyphering in Subtraction. The Nephew is Reading and Writing as above ; and Cyphering in Reduction. The eldest daughter is Reading the Spectator ; Writing ; and beginning to Cypher. The second is reading next out of the Spelling-Book, and beginning to write. The next is reading in the Spelling-Book. The fourth is Spelling in the beginning of the Spelling-Book. And the last is beginning her letters.

Sunday, November 7. Rode to Ucomico Church,¹ 8 Miles. Heard Parson Smith. He shewed to us the uncertainty of Riches, and their Insufficiency to make us happy. Dined at Captain Walkers ; With Parson Smith ; his Wife ; her Sister, a young lady ; &c. Returned in the Evening.

Friday, November 12. Ben begun his Greek Grammer. Three in the afternoon Mr. Carter returned from *Williamsburg*. He seems to be agreeable, discreet, and sensible. He informed me more particularly concerning his desire as to the Instruction of his Children.

Saturday, November 20. Rode to Mr. Fishers dined with Mr. Cunningham at 3 o-Clock. Rode in the evening to Mr. Lancelot Lees,² a young Gentleman, who has lately come from England ; sup'd on Oysters. Rode home about nine o-Clock he along.

Thursday, November 25. Rode this morning to Richmond Courthouse, where two Horses run for a purse of 500 Pounds : besides small Betts almost enumerable. One of the Horses belonged to Colonel John Tayloe,³ and is called *Yorick*. The other to Dr. Flood, and is called *Gift*. The Assembly was remarkably numerous ; beyond my expectation and exceeding polite in general. The Horses started precisely at five minutes after three ; the Course was one Mile in Circumference, they performed the first Round in two minutes, third in two minutes and a half. *Yorick* came out the fifth time round about 40 Rod before *Gift* they were both, when the Riders dismounted very lame ; they run five Miles, and Carried 180 lb. Rode home in the Evening. Expence to the Boy /7½.

Saturday, November 27. Robin and Nancy yet at Dancing-School. Mr. Harry Fantleroy called after dinner to see us. In the Evening Ben and I rode with him to his fathers ; I was introduced to one Mr. Walker a Scotch Gentleman, lately a School-master but has quit, and is going in the Spring for the Gown to England.

Sunday, November 28. Rode to Church—the Parson was absent ; it

¹ This interesting old church still stands, having survived the changes and vicissitudes of two centuries. It is one of the oldest homes of the Church of England in Virginia, having been built in 1706 ; it is now in good repair and is still regularly used as a place of worship by those of the Episcopal faith. It is said that the original silver communion service was given by Queen Anne. For a full account of Yeocomico Church see Bishop Meade's *Old Churches of Virginia*, II. 148–157. The minister of Cople Parish at this time was Rev. Thomas Smith.

² Son of George Lee of Mt. Pleasant in Westmoreland County. See the latter's will in *Lee of Virginia*, 141–144.

³ Of Mt. Airy in Richmond County, a member of the Council.

is indeed a little cold ! The Clerk read prayers for us. We rode home. Found at Home two young Ladies, Miss Corbin and Miss Turburville and Mr. George Lee,¹ brother to the Gentleman here last Sunday, and has lately returned from England. I was introduced by Mr. Carter to the two latter.

Sunday, December 12. Rode to Nominy-Church, parson Smith preached 15 minutes. Advertisement at the Church door dated Sunday Decem^r 12th. Pork to be sold to-morrow at 20/. per Hundred. dined with us to day Captain Walker, Colonel Rich^d. Lee,² and Mr. Lancelot Lee. Sat after dinner till Sunset, drank three Bottles of Medaira, two Bowls of Toddy !

Monday, December 13. Mr. Carter is preparing for a Voyage in his Schooner, the *Hariot*, to the Eastern Shore in Maryland, for Oysters : there are of the party, Mr. Carter, Captain *Walker* Colonel *Rich^d. Lee* and Mr. *Lancelot Lee*. With Sailors to work the vessel. I observe it is a general custom on Sundays here, with Gentlemen to invite one another home to dine, after Church ; and to consult about, determine their common business, either before or after Service. It is not the custom for Gentlemen to go into Church til Service is beginning, when they enter in a Body, in the same manner as they come out ; I have known the Clerk to come out and call them in to prayers. They stay also after the Service is over, usually as long, sometimes longer, than the Parson was preaching. Almost every Lady wears a red Cloak ; and when they ride out they tie a red handkerchief over their Head and face, so that when I first came into Virginia, I was distressed whenever I saw a Lady, for I thought she had the Tooth-Ach ! The People are extremely hospitable, and very polite both of which are most certainly universal Characteristics of the Gentlemen in Virginia. some swear bitterly, but the practise seems to be generally disapproved. I have heard that this Country is notorious for Gaming, however this be, I have not seen a Pack of *Cards*, nor a *Die*, since I left home, nor gaming nor Betting of any kind except at the Richmond-Race. Almost every Gentleman of Condition, keeps a Chariot and *Four* ; many drive with six Horses. I observe that all the Merchants and shopkeepers in the Sphere of my acquaintance and I am told it is the Case through the Province, are young Scotch-Men ; several of whom I know, as *Cunningham, Jennings, Hamilton, Blain* ; and it has been the custom heretofore to have all their Tutors, and Schoolmasters from Scotland, tho' they begin to be willing to employ their own Countrymen. Evening Ben Carter³ and myself had a long dispute on the practice of fighting. He thinks it best for two persons who have any dispute to go out in good-humour and fight manfully, and says they will be sooner and longer friends than to brood and harbour malice. Mr. Carter is practising this evening on the *Guittar* He begins with the *Trumpet Minuet*. He

¹ George Fairfax Lee, of Mt. Pleasant. A letter of his, written from Christ's College, Cambridge, in November, 1772, is in *Lee of Virginia*, p. 302.

² Richard Henry Lee, the famous orator and statesman.

³ The eldest son of Councillor Carter.

has a good Ear for Music : a vastly delicate Taste : and keeps good Instruments, he has here at Home a *Harpsichord, Forte-Piano, Harmonica, Guittar, Violin*, and *German Flutes*, and at Williamsburg, has a good *Organ*, he himself also is indefatigable in the Practice.

Tuesday, December 14. Busy in School. The Weather vastly fine ! There has been no Rain of consequence, nor any stormy or disagreeable Weather, since about the 10th of last Month ! From the Window, by which I write, I have a broad, a diversified, and an exceedingly beautiful Prospect of the high craggy Banks of the River *Nominy* ! Some of those huge Hills are covered thick with *Cedar*, and Pine Shrubs ; a vast quantity of which seems to be in almost every part of this Province. Others are naked, and when the Sun Shines look beautiful ! At the Distance of about 5 Miles is the River Potowmack over which I can see the smoky Woods of Maryland ; at this window I often stand, and cast my Eyes homeward with peculiar pleasure ! Between my window and the potowmack, is Nominy Church, it stands close on the Bank of the River Nominy, in a pleasant agreeable place. Mr. Carters family go down often, so many as can with convenience in a Boat rowed by four Men, and generally arrive as soon as those who ride.

The mouth of Nominy River where it falls into Potowmack is about 25 miles above the mouth of Potowmack or where it falls into the Chessopeak-Bay. And about 12 Miles below the mouth of Nominy the River Ucomico puts up into the country, near which River, and about three miles from the mouth stands the lower parish Church of Westmorland-County call'd Ucomico Church. The River Potowmack opposite to us the People say is 10 miles over, but I think it is not more than 8. Afternoon Captain *Grigg*, who arrived last Sunday morning into the River Ucomico from *London* visited Mr. Carter. Evening reading Pictete.¹

Wednesday, December 15. Busy in School. To day Dined with us Mrs. Turburville, and her daughter Miss Letty Miss Jenny Corbin,² and Mr. Blain. We dined at three. The manner here is different from our way of living in Cohansie. In the morning so soon as it is light a Boy knocks at my Door to make a fire ; after the Fire is kindled, I rise which now in the winter is commonly by Seven, or a little after. By the time I am drest the Children commonly enter the School-Room, which is under the Room I sleep in ; I hear them round one lesson, when the Bell rings for eight o-Clock (for Mr. Carter has a large good Bell of upwards of 60 Lb. which may be heard some miles, and this is always rung at meal Times ;) the Children then go out ; and at half after eight the Bell rings for Breakfast, we then repair to the Dining-Room ; after Breakfast, which is generally about half after nine, we go into School,

¹ Benedict Pictet, *Theologia Christiana*, 1696.

² Mrs. John Turberville of Hickory Hill, Westmoreland County ; her daughter Lettice Corbin Turberville, at this time a child, afterward the mother of Major-General Roger Jones, U. S. A., and of Commodore Thomas ap Catesby Jones ; and her sister Jane Corbin.

and sit til twelve, when the Bell rings, and they go out for noon ; the dinner-Bell rings commonly about half after two, often at three, but never before two. After dinner is over, which in common, when we have no Company, is about half after three we go into School, and sit til the Bell rings at five, when they separate til the next morning ; I have to myself in the Evening, a neat Chamber, a large Fire, Books, and Candle and my Liberty, either to continue in the School room, in my own Room, or to sit over at the great House with Mr. and Mrs. Carter. We go into Supper commonly about half after eight or at nine and I usually go to Bed between ten and Eleven. Altho the family in which I live, is certainly under as good political Regulations, and every way as suitable and agreeable as I can expect, or even could desire ; and though the Neighbourhood is polite, and the Country pleasant, yet I cannot help reflecting on my situation last winter, which was near the lovely *Laura*¹ for whom I cannot but have the truest, and the warmest Esteem ! Possibly, If Heaven shall preserve my life, in some future time, I may again enjoy her good society.

Mr. Carter heard this Evening that Captain *Walker* cannot go to Maryland, he is thus stop'd.

Thursday, December 16. I had the pleasure of walking to day at twelve o-Clock with Mrs. Carter ; She shewed me her stock of *Fowls* and *Mutton* for the winter ; She observed, with great truth, that to live in the Country, and take no pleasure at all in Groves, Fields, or Meadows ; nor in Cattle, Horses, and domestic Poultry, would be a manner of life too tedious to endure ; Dined at three.

Saturday, December 18. After Breakfast, we all retired into the Dancing Room, and after the Scholars had their Lesson singly round Mr. Christian, very politely, requested me to step a *Minuet* ; I excused myself, however, but signified my peculiar pleasure in the accuracy of their performance. There were several Minuets danced with great ease and propriety ; after which the whole company joined in country-dances, and it was indeed beautiful to admiration, to see such a number of young persons, set off by dress to the best advantage, moving easily, to the sound of well performed Music, and with perfect regularity, tho' apparently in the utmost Disorder. The Dance continued til two, we dined at half after three. soon after Dinner we repaired to the Dancing-Room again ; I observe in the course of the lessons, that Mr. Christian is punctual, and rigid in his discipline, so strict indeed that he struck two of the young Misses for a fault in the course of their performance, even in the presence of the Mother of one of them ! And he rebuked one of the young Fellows so highly as to tell him he must alter his manner, which he had observed through the Course of the Dance, to be insolent, and wanton, or absent himself from the School. I thought this a sharp reproof to a young Gentleman of seventeen, before a large number of Ladies ! When it grew too dark to dance, the young Gentlemen walked

¹ A reference to Miss Elizabeth Beatty of New Jersey, who married Philip Fithian in 1775, and to whom he always refers as the "Lovely Laura."

over to my Room, we conversed til half after six ; Nothing is now to be heard of in conversation, but the *Balls*, the *Fox-hunts*, the fine *entertainments*, and the *good fellowship*, which are to be exhibited at the approaching *Christmas*. I almost think myself happy that my Horses lameness will be a sufficient Excuse for my keeping at home on these Holidays. Mr Goodlet was barred out of his School last Monday by his Scholars, for Christmas Holidays, which are to continue til twelfth-day ; But my Scholars are of a more quiet nature, and have consented to have four or five Days now, and to have their full Holiday in May next, when I propose by the permission of Providence to go Home, where I hope to see the good and benevolent *Laura*.

When the candles were lighted, we all repaired, for the last time, into the dancing-Room ; first each couple danced a Minuet ; then all joined as before in the country Dances, these continued till half after Seven when Mr. Christian retired ; and at the proposal of several, (with Mr. Carters approbation) we played *Button*, to get Pauns for Redemption ; here I could join with them, and indeed it was carried on with sprightliness, and Decency ; in the course of redeeming my Pauns I had several Kisses of the Ladies ! Early in the Evening came colonel Philip Lee,¹ in a travelling Chariot from Williamsburg. Half after eight we were rung in to Supper ; The room looked luminous and splendid ; four very large candles burning on the table where we supped ; three others in different parts of the Room ; a gay, sociable Assembly, and four well instructed waiters ! So soon as we rose from supper, the Company formed into a semicircle round the fire, and Mr. Lee, by the voice of the Company was chosen *Pope*, and Mr. Carter, Mr. Christian, Mrs. Carter, Mrs. Lee, and the rest of the company were appointed Friars, in the Play call'd "break the Popes neck." Here we had great Diversion in the respective Judgments upon offenders, but we were all dismissed by ten, and retired to our several Rooms.

Thursday, December 23. This Evening, after I had dismissed the Children, and was sitting in the School-Room cracking Nuts, none present but Mr. *Carters Clerk*, a civil, inoffensive, agreeable young Man, who acts both in the character of a Clerk and Steward, when the Woman who makes my Bed, asked me for the key of my Room, and on seeing the young Man sitting with me, she told him that her Mistress had this afternoon given orders that their Allowance of Meat should be given out to them to-morrow. She left us ; I then asked the young man what their allowance is ? He told me that excepting some favorites about the table, their weekly allowance is a peck of Corn, and a pound of Meat a Head ! And Mr. Carter is allowed by all, and from what I have already seen of others, I make no Doubt at all but he is, by far the most humane to his Slaves of any in these parts ! Good God ! are these Christians ? When

¹ Philip Ludwell Lee (1727-1775) eldest son of President Lee, was a fellow-member with Robert Carter in the governor's council and took an active part in the commencement of the struggle for independence. He resided at Stratford and maintained the generous hospitality of his father.

I am on the Subject, I will relate further, what I heard Mr. George Lees Overseer, one Morgan, say the other day that he himself had often done to Negroes, and found it useful ; He said that whipping of any kind does them no good, for they will laugh at your greatest Severity ; But he told us he had invented two things, and by several experiments had proved their success. For Sullenness, Obstinacy, or Idleness, says he, Take a Negroe, strip him, tie him fast to a post ; take then a sharp Curry-Comb, and curry him severely til he is well scraped ; and call a Boy with some dry Hay, and make the Boy rub him down for several Minutes, then salt him, and unlose him. He will attend to his Business (said the inhuman Infidel) afterwards ! But savage Cruelty does not exceed His next diabolical Invention. To get a Secret from a Negro, says he, take the following Method—Lay upon your Floor a large thick plank, having a peg about eighteen Inches long, of hard wood, and very Sharp, on the upper end, fixed fast in the plank—then strip the Negro, tie the Cord to a staple in the Ceiling, so as that his foot may just rest on the sharpened Peg, then turn him briskly round, and you would laugh (said our informer) at the Dexterity of the Negro, while he was relieving his Feet on the sharpened Peg ! I need say nothing of these seeing there is a righteous God, who will take vengeance on such Inventions !

Saturday, December 25. I was waked this morning by Guns fired all round the House. The morning is stormy, the wind at South East rains hard Nelson the Boy who makes my Fire, blacks my shoes, does errands &c. was early in my Room, drest only in his shirt and Breeches ! He made me a vast fire, blacked my Shoes, set my Room in order, and wished me a joyful Christmas, for which I gave him half a Bit. Soon after he left the Room, and before I was Drest, the Fellow who makes the Fire in our School Room, drest very neatly in green, but almost drunk, entered my chamber with three or four profound Bows, and made me the same salutation ; I gave him a *Bit*, and dismissed him as soon as possible. Soon after my Cloths and Linen were sent in with a message for a Christmas *Box*, as they call it ; I sent the poor Slave a Bit, and my thanks. I was obliged for want of small change, to put off for some days the Barber who shaves and dresses me. I gave *Tom* the Coachman, who Doctors my Horse, for his care two Bits, and am to give more when the Horse is well. I gave to *Dennis* the Boy who waits at Table half a *Bit*. So that the sum of my *Donations* to the Servants, for this Christmas appears to be five Bits, a Bit is a pisterene¹ bisected ; or an English sixpence, and passes here for seven pence Halfpenny. the whole is 3^s 1½^d.

At Breakfast, when Mr. Carter entered the Room, he gave us the compliments of the Season. He told me, very civilly, that as my Horse was lame, his own riding Horse is at my Service to ride when and where I choose.

¹ Pistareen, which then equalled about 19.4 of our cents ; half of it, 9.7 ; the English sixpence, 12.2 ; seven-pence-halfpenny Virginia money, 10.4.

Mrs. Carter was, as always, cheerful, chatty, and agreeable ; She told me after Breakfast several droll, merry Occurrences that happened while she was in the City Williamsburg.

This morning came from the Post-office at Hobbes-Hole, on the Rapahannock, our News-papers. Mr. Carter takes the Pennsylvania Gazette, which seems vastly agreeable to me, for it is like having something from home. But I have yet no Answer to my Letter. We dined at four o-Clock. Mr. Carter kept in his Room, because he breakfasted late, and on Oysters. There were at Table Mrs. Carter and her five Daughters that are at School with me—Miss *Priscilla*, *Nancy*, *Fanny*, *Betsy*, and *Harriot*, five as beautiful delicate, well-instructed Children as I have ever known ! *Ben* is abroad ; *Bob* and *Harry* are out ; so there was no Man at Table but myself. I must carve—Drink the Health—and talk if I can ! Our Dinner was no otherwise than common, yet as elegant a *Christmas Dinner* as I ever sat Down to. The table Discourse was Marriage ; Mrs. Carter observed that was she a Widow, she should scruple to marry any man alive ; She gave a reason, that She did not think it probable a man could love her grown old when the world is thronged with blooming, ripening Virgins ; but in fact Mrs. Carter looks and would pass for a younger Woman than some unmarried Ladies of my acquaintance, who would willingly enough make us place them below twenty ! We dined at four ; when we rose from table it was growing dark. The wind continues at South East and is stormy and muddy. While we supped Mr. Carter as he often does played on the *Forte-Piano*. Hé almost never sups. Last Night and to night I had large clear and very elegant Spermaceti Candles sent into my Room.

1774, *Tuesday, January 4.* The Family is most agreeable ! Mr. Carter is sensible, judicious, much given to retirement and Study ; his Company, and conversation are always profitable. His main Studies are Law and Music, the latter of which seems to be his darling Amusement. It seems to nourish as well as entertain his mind ! And to be sure he has a nice well judging Ear, and has made great advances in the Theory, and Practice of music.

Mrs. Carter is prudent, always cheerful, never without Something pleasant, a remarkable Economist, perfectly acquainted (in my Opinion) with the good-management of Children, intirely free from all foolish and unnecessary fondness, and is also well acquainted (for She has always been used) with the formality and Ceremony which we find commonly in high Life. Ben, the eldest, is a youth of genius : of a warm impetuous Disposition ; desirous of acquiring Knowledge, docile, vastly inquisitive and curious in mercantile, and mechanical Matters, is very fond of Horses and takes great pleasure in exercising them. Bob, the other Brother, is By no means destitute of capacity, As Mr. Marshal who was his last Tutor has asserted, and many now suppose : He is extremely volatile and unsettled in his temper, which makes it almost wholly impossible to fix him for any time to the same thing, On which account he has made but very little advancement in any one Branch of

Study, and this is attributed to Barrenness of Genius. He is slovenly, clumsy, very fond of Shooting, of Dogs, of Horses, but a very stiff untoward *Rider*, good natur'd, pleased with the Society of persons much below his Family, and Estate, and tho' quick and wrathful in his temper yet he is soon moderated, and easily subdued. Harry the Nephew, is rather stoical, sullen, or saturnine in his make. He is obstinate, tho' Steady, and makes a slow uniform advance in his Learning, he is vastly kind to me, but in particular to my Horse, of his health or Indisposition.

Miss *Priscilla*, the eldest Daughter about 16, is steady, studious, docile, quick of apprehension, and makes good progress in what She undertakes; If I could with propriety continue in the Family, I should require no stronger Inducement than the Satisfaction I should receive by seeing this young Lady become perfectly acquainted with anything I propose as soon as I communicate it to her, but the situation of my affairs makes it out of my power to stay longer than a year; She is small of her age, has a mild winning Presence, a sweet obliging Temper, never swears, which is here a distinguished virtue, dances finely, plays well on key'd Instruments, and is on the whole in the first Class of the female Sex.

Nancy, the Second, is not without some few of those qualities which are by some (I think with great ill-nature, and with little or no truth) said to belong intirely to the fair Sex. I mean great curiosity, Eagerness for superiority, Ardor in friendship, But bitterness and rage where there is enmity. She is not constant in her disposition, nor diligent nor attentive to her business. But She has her excellencies, She is cheerful, tender in her Temper, easily managed by perswasion, and is never without what seems to have been a common Gift of Heaven to the *fair-Sex*, the "*Copia Verborum*," or readiness of Expression! She is only beginning to play the *Guitar*, She understands the Notes well, and is a graceful Dancer.

Fanny next,¹ is in her Person, according to my Judgment, the Flower in the Family. She has a strong resemblance of her *Mama* who is an elegant, beautiful Woman. Miss Fanny seems to have a remarkable Sedateness, and simplicity in her countenance, which is always rather chearful than melancholy; She has nothing with which we can find Fault in her Person, but has something in the Features of her Face which insensibly pleases us, and always when She is in Sight draws our Attention, and much the more because there seems to be for every agreeable Feature a correspondent Action which improves and adorns it.

Betsy next is young, quiet, and obedient.

Harriot is bold, fearless, noisy and lawless; always merry, almost never displeased; She seems to have a Heart easily moved by the force of Music; She has learned many Tunes and can strike any Note, or Succession of Notes perfectly with the Flute or Harpsichord, and is never wearied with the sound of Music either vocal or *Instrumental*.

These are the persons who are at present under my direction, and whose general character I have very imperfectly attempted to describe.

¹ Frances Carter married Major Thomas ap Thomas Jones, of the Revolutionary army.

Tuesday, January 18. Mrs. Carter, and the young Ladies came Home last Night from the Ball,¹ and brought with them Mrs. Lane, they tell us there were upwards of Seventy at the Ball ; forty one Ladies ; that the company was genteel ; and that Colonel *Harry Lee*,² from *Dumfries*, and his Son *Harrey* who was with me at College, were also there ; Mrs. Carter made this an argument, and it was a strong one indeed, that to-day I must dress and go with her to the Ball. She added also that She Desired my Company in the Evening when she should come Home as it would be late. After considering a while I consented to go, and was dressed. we set away from Mr. Carters at two ; Mrs. Carter and the young Ladies in the Chariot, Mrs. Lane in a Chair, and myself on Horseback. As soon as I had handed the Ladies out, I was saluted by Parson *Smith* ; I was introduced into a small Room where a number of Gentlemen were playing Cards (the first game I have seen since I left Home) to lay off my Boots Riding-Coat &c. Next I was directed into the Dining-Room to see young Mr. *Lee*,³ He introduced me to his Father. With them I conversed til Dinner, which came in at half after four. The Ladies dined first, when some Good order was preserved ; when they rose, each nimblest Fellow dined first. The Dinner was as elegant as could be well expected when so great an Assembly were to be kept for so long a time. For Drink, there was several sorts of Wine, good Lemon Punch, Toddy, Cyder, Porter, &c. About Seven the Ladies and Gentlemen begun to dance in the Ball-Room—first Minuets one Round ; Second Gigs ; third Reels ; And last of All Country-Dances ; tho' they struck several Marches occasionally. The Music was a French-Horn and two Violins. The Ladies were Dressed Gay, and splendid, and when dancing, their Silks and Brocades rustled and trailed behind them ! But all did not join in the Dance for there were parties in Rooms made up, some at Cards ; some drinking for Pleasure ; some toasting the Sons of america ; some singing "Liberty Songs" as they call'd them, in which six, eight, ten or more would put their Heads near together and roar, and for the most part as unharmonious as an affronted—. Among the first of these Vociferators was a young Scotch-Man, Mr. *Jack Cunningham* ; he was nimis bibendo appotus ; noisy, droll, waggish, yet civil in his way and wholly inoffensive. I was solicited to dance by several, Captain Chelton, Colonel Lee, Harry Lee, and others ; But George Lee,⁴ with great Rudeness as tho' half

¹ Given by Richard Lee of Lee Hall, Westmoreland County, commonly called Squire Lee, who represented that county in the General Assembly of Virginia almost continuously from 1757 to 1795.

² Lieut.-Col. Henry Lee of Leesylvania, near Dumfries, was a brother of "Squire" Lee, the host, and a first cousin of Richard Henry Lee ; he was a member of the House of Burgesses and took an active part in all the exciting events of his time. Harry his son, who was graduated from Princeton College in 1773, became the celebrated cavalry leader of the Revolution, better known perhaps under the sobriquet of "Light-Horse Harry." His first wife was the "Divine Matilda," daughter of Philip Ludwell Lee. By his second wife, a Miss Carter, he had six children, of whom the best known is Gen. Robert E. Lee. Henry Lee was governor of Virginia, 1791-1794, and member of Congress.

³ *I. e.*, Henry Lee, Jr.

⁴ Probably either George Fairfax Lee, son of George Lee of Mt. Pleasant, or George Lee, son of Col. Thomas Ludwell Lee of Bellevue.

drunk, asked me why I would come to the Ball and neither dance nor play Cards? I answered him shortly, (for his Impudence moved my resentment) that my Invitation to the Ball would Justify my Presence; and that he was ill qualified to direct my Behaviour who made so indifferent a Figure himself. Parson Smiths, and Parson Gibberns Wives danced, but I saw neither of the Clergymen either dance or game. At Eleven Mrs. Carter call'd upon me to go, I listened with gladness to the summons and with Mrs. Lane in the Chariot we rode Home, the Evening sharp and cold! I handed the Ladies out, waited on them to a warm Fire, then ran over to my own Room, which was warm and had a good Fire; oh how welcome! Better this than to be at the Ball in some corner nodding, and awaked now and then with a midnight Yell! In my Room by half after twelve; and exceeding happy that I could break away with Reputation.

Saturday, January 29. The Weather is as wintry here in every Respect as I have ever known it in New-Jersey. Mr. Carter has a Cart and three pairs of Oxen which every Day bring in four Loads of Wood, Sundays excepted, and yet these very severe Days we have none to spare; And indeed I do not wonder, for in the *Great House, School House, Kitchen, &c.* there are twenty Eight steady fires! and most of these are very Large! After Supper, when all had retired but Mrs. Carter, Mr. Carter and Myself, the Conversation being on serious Matters, Mr. Carter observed that he much dislikes the common method of making Burying Yards round Churches, and having them almost open to every Beast. He would have them at some small distance from the Church, neatly and strongly inclosed, and the Graves kept up decent, and plain, but would have no splendid, nor magnificent Monument, nor even stone to say "Hic jacet." He told us he proposes to make his own Coffin and use it for a chest til its proper use shall be required—That no Stone, nor Inscription be put over him—And that he would choose to be laid under a shady Tree where he might be undisturbed, and sleep in peace and obscurity. He told us, that with his own hands he planted, and is with great diligence raising a *Catalpa*-Tree at the Head of his Father who lies in his Garden.¹

Mrs. Carter beg'd that She might have a Stone, with this only for a Monument, "Here lies *Ann Tasker Carter.*"² with these things for my consideration I left them about ten and went to my cold Room, and was hurried soon to Bed; Not however without reflecting on the importance of our preparation for this great Change!

Saturday, February 12. After having dismissed the School I went over to Mr. Carters Study. We conversed on many things, and at length on the College of William and Mary at *Williamsburg*. He informed me that it is in such confusion at present, and so badly directed, that he cannot send his Children with propriety there for Improvement and useful Education. That he has known the Professors to play all Night at Cards in publick Houses in the City, and has often seen them drunken in the

¹ Robert Carter of Nominy Hall, son of "King" Carter, died about 1732.

² Mrs. Carter was the daughter of Hon. Benjamin Tasker, of Maryland.

Street! That the Charter of the College is vastly Extensive, and the yearly income sufficient to support a University being about 4.000£ Sterling. That the Necessary Expence for each Scholar yearly is only 15£ Currency. Two of the officers of the Institution, Mr. Bracken and Mr. Henly Clergymen are at present engaged in a paper War published weekly in the Williamsburg Gazette's.¹

Tuesday, March 1. Afternoon Mr. Lane a young Gentleman, formerly my acquaintance at Princeton came to see me; with one Mr. Harrison. He stays all night.

Thursday, March 3. After Breakfast Mr. Lane left us, He was drest in black superfine Broadcloth; Gold-laced hat; laced Ruffles; black Silk Stockings; and to his Broach on his Bosom he wore a Majors Badge inscrib'd "Virtute and Silentio" cut in a Golden Medal! Certainly he was fine!

Sunday, March 6. Breakfasted at half after nine. Mr. Lane the other Day informed me that the *Anabaptists* in Loudon County are growing very numerous; and seem to be increasing in affluence; and as he thinks quite destroying pleasure in the Country; for they encourage ardent Pray'r; strong and constant faith, and an intire Banishment of *Gaming*, Dancing, and Sabbath-Day Diversions. I have also before understood that they are numerous in many County's in this Province and are Generally accounted troublesome. Parson *Gibbern* has preached several sermons in opposition to them, in which he has labour'd to convince his people that what they say are only whimsical Fancies or at most Religion grown to Wildness and Enthusiasm! There is also in these counties one Mr. Woddel,² a presbyterian Clergyman, of an irreproachable Character, who preaches to the people under Trees in summer, and in private Houses in Winter. Him, however, the people in general dont more esteem than the Anabaptists Preachers; but the People of Fashion in general countenance, and commend him. I have never had an opportunity of seeing Mr. *Woddel*, as he is this Winter up in the Country, but Mr. and Mrs. *Carter* speak well of him, Mr. and Mrs. *Fanteroy* also, and all who I have ever heard mention his Name.

Friday, March 18. I have all along intended, and shall now attempt to give a short description of Nomini-Hall, and the several Buildings, and improvements adjoining it; as well for my own amusement, as also

¹ John Bracken was from 1773 to 1818 minister of Bruton Church, Williamsburg, was made master of the grammar school, at the college, and was president for two years after the death of Bishop James Madison in 1812. Samuel Henley was professor of divinity and moral philosophy in the college, was a Tory, and left Virginia in 1775. In England he wrote numerous pamphlets on archaeological subjects, was the translator of Beckford's *Vathek*, and from 1805 to 1815 was principal of the East India College at Hertford.

² The celebrated Dr. James Waddell, the "Blind Preacher" of Wirt's *British Spy*, was settled in Lancaster and Northumberland counties from 1762 to 1788; but during the latter part of this period it was his custom, on grounds of health, to spend a part of the year in upper Virginia, where he lived constantly in later years. See Foote's *Sketches of Virginia*, I. 367-387.

to be able with certainty to inform others of a Seat as magnificent in itself and with as many surrounding Conveniences, as any I have ever seen, and perhaps equal to any in this Colony.

Mr. *Carter* now possesses 60000 Acres of Land ; and about 600 Negroes. But his Estate is much divided, and lies in almost every county in this Colony ; He has Lands in the Neighbourhood of Williamsburg, and an elegant and Spacious House in that City. He owns a great part of the well known Iron-Works near Baltimore in Maryland.¹ And he has one or more considerable Farms not far from Anapolis.

He has some large tracts of Land far to the West, at a place call'd "Bull Run," and the "Great Meadows" among the mountains. He owns Lands near Dumfries on the Potowmack ; and large tracts in this and the neighbouring Counties. Out of these Lands, which are situated so remote from each other in various parts of these two large Provinces, Virginia and Maryland, Mr. *Carter* has chosen for the place of his habitation a high spot of Ground in Westmoreland County at the Head of the Navigation of the River Nomini, where he has erected a large Elegant House, at a vast expence, which commonly goes by the name of *Nomini-Hall*. This House is built with Brick, but the bricks have been covered with strong lime Mortar ; so that the building is now perfectly white ; it is seventy-six Feet long from East to West ; and forty-four wide from North to South, two Stories high ; the Pitch of the lower story seventeen Feet, and the upper Story twelve. It has five Stacks of Chimneys, tho' two of these serve only for ornaments.

There is a beautiful Jutt, on the South side, eighteen feet long, and eight Feet deep from the wall which is supported by three tall pillars. On the South side, or front, in the upper story are four Windows each having twenty-four Lights of Glass. In the lower story are two Windows each having forty-two Lights of Glass, and two Doors each having Sixteen Lights. At the East end the upper story has three Windows each with eighteen Lights ; and below two Windows both with eighteen Lights and a Door with nine.

The North side I think is most beautiful of all ; In the upper Story is a Row of seven Windows with eighteen Lights a piece ; and below six windows, with the like number of lights ; besides a large Portico in the middle, at the sides of which are two Windows each with eighteen Lights. At the West end are no Windows. The Number of Lights in all is five hundred, and forty-nine. There are four Rooms on a Floor, disposed of in the following manner. Below is a dining Room where we usually sit ; the second is a dining-Room for the Children ; the third is Mr. Carters study² ; and the fourth is a Ball-Room thirty Feet long. Above

¹ Probably those established at Gwinn's Falls and Jones's Falls by the Baltimore Company, in which members of the Tasker family (Mrs. Carter's connections) were interested. Bishop, *History of American Manufactures*, I. 586.

² Fithian includes in his journal a catalogue of Colonel Carter's library—89 volumes folio, 76 quarto, 378 octavo, 502 duodecimo, and says that the Colonel had 458 volumes more at Williamsburg—1503 in all.

stairs, one Room is for Mr. and Mrs. Carter ; the second for the young Ladies ; and the other two for occasional Company. As this House is large, and stands on a high piece of Land it may be seen a considerable distance ; I have seen it at the Distance of six Miles.

At equal Distances from each corner of this Building stand four other considerable Houses, which I shall next a little describe. First, at the North East corner, and at 100 yards Distance stands the School House ;

At the North-West Corner, and at the same Distance stands the stable ; At the South-West Corner, and at the same Distance, stands the Coach-House ; And lastly, at the South-East, and at an equal distance stands the Wash-House. These four Houses are the corners of a Square of which the Great-House is the Center. First the School-House is forty five feet long, from East to West, and twenty-seven from North to South ; It has five well-finished, convenient Rooms, three below stairs, and two above ; It is built with Brick a Story and a half high with Dormant Windows ; In each Room is a fire ; In the large Room below-Stairs we keep our School ; the other two Rooms below which are smaller are allowed to Mr. Randolph the Clerk ; The Room above the School-Room Ben and I live in ; and the other Room above Stairs belongs to *Harry* and *Bob*. Five of us live in this House with great Neatness, and convenience ; each one has a Bed to himself.

And we are call'd by the Bell to the Great-House to Breakfast &c. The Wash-House is built in the same form, and is of the same Size of the School-House. From the front yard of the Great House, to the Wash-House is a curious *Terrace*, covered finely with Green turf, and about five foot high with a slope of eight feet, which appears exceeding well to persons coming to the front of the House. This *Terrace* is produced along the Front of the House, and ends by the Kitchen ; but before the Front-Doors is a broad flight of steps of the same Height, and slope of the *Terrace*.

The Stable and coach-House are of the same Length and Breadth as the School- and Wash-House, only they are higher pitched to be convenient for holding Hay and Fodder.

Due East of the Great House are two Rows of tall, flourishing, beautiful Poplars, beginning on a Line drawn from the School to the Wash-House ; these Rows are something wider than the House, and are about 300 yards Long, at the Eastermost end of which is the great Road leading through Westmorland to Richmond. These Rows of Poplars¹ form an extremely pleasant avenue, and at the Road, through them, the House appears most romantic, at the same time that it does truly elegant. The Area of the Triangle made by the Wash-House, Stable and School-House is perfectly level, and designed for a bowling-Green, laid out in rectangular Walks which are paved with Brick, and covered over with burnt Oyster-Shells. In the other Triangle, made by the Wash-House,

¹ These beautiful old trees are still the admiration of all who see them ; though the house and buildings have been gone for many years, this stately avenue survives with hardly a tree missing.

Stable, and Coach-House is the Kitchen, a well-built House, as large as the School-House ; Bake-House ; Dairy ; Store-House and several other small houses ; all which stand due West, and at a small distance from the great House, and form a little handsome Street. These Buildings stand about a quarter of a Mile from a Fork of the River Nomini, one Branch of which runs on the East of us, on which are two Mills ; one of them belongs to Mr. Turburville the other to Mr. Washington,¹ both within a mile. another branch of the River runs on the West of us, on which and at a small distance above the House stands Mr. Carter's Merchant Mill, which I have in other places described ; to go to the mill from the House we descend I imagine above an 100 Feet ; the Dam is so broad that two carriages may pass conveniently on it ; and the Pond from twelve to Eighteen Foot water. at the fork Mr. Carter has a Granary, where he lands his Wheat for the mill, Iron from the Works etc.

In the evening Mr. *Carter* sent for Ben and I to play over the *Sonata* which we have lately learn'd ; we performed it, and had not only Mr. Stadleys Approbation, but his praise ; he did me the honour to say that "I play a good Flute." He took a Flute also and play'd ; which put me in mind, at once, of the speech of the Shepherd in Virgil.—Non tu in Triviis, indocte, solebas Stridenti miserum Stipula disperdere carmen. For when compared to him, the best that Ben or I can do, is like Crows among Nightingales. We play'd till ten, and separated. I gave to Miss Harriot, for saying a good lesson, half a Bit.

Tuesday, March 24. At Breakfast Mr. Carter entertained us with an account of what he himself saw the other Day, which is a strong Representation of the cruelty and distress which many among the Negroes suffer in Virginia !

Mr. Carter dined at Squire Lees² some few Weeks ago ; at the same place, that day, dined also Mr. George Turburville and his Wife. As Mr. Carter rode up he observed Mr. Turburville's Coach-Man sitting on the Chariot-Box, the Horses off. After he had made his compliments in the House, He had occasion soon after to go to the Door, when he saw the Coachman still sitting, and on examination found that he was there fast chained ! The Fellow is inclined to run away, and this is the method which This Tyrant makes use of to keep him when abroad ; and So soon as he goes home he is delivered into the pityless Hands of a bloody Overseer ! In the Language of a Heathen I query whether cunning old *Charon* will not refuse to transport this imperious, haughty Virginian Lord When he shall happen to die over the Styx to the Elysian Gardens ; lest his Lordship in the passage should take affront at the treatment, and attempt to chain him also to the Stygean Galley for Life !

Or, In the language of a Christian, I query whether he may be admitted into the peaceful Kingdom of Heaven where meekness, Holiness, and Brotherly-Love, are distinguishing Characteristicks ?

¹ Presumably John Augustine Washington of Bushfield, younger brother of Gen. Washington.

² Richard Lee of Lee Hall ; see p. 301, note 1.

Monday, April 4. After Supper I had a long conversation with Mrs. Carter concerning Negroes in Virginia, and find that She esteems their value at no higher rate than I do. We both concluded, (I am pretty certain that the conclusion is just) that if in Mr. Carters, or in any Gentlemans Estate, all the Negroes should be sold, and the money put to Interest in safe hands, and let the Lands which these Negroes now work lie wholly uncultivated, the bare Interest of the Price of the Negroes would be a much greater yearly income than what is now received from their working the Lands, making no allowance at all for the trouble and Risk of the Masters as to the Crops, and Negroes. How much greater then must be the value of an Estate here if these poor enslaved Africans were all in their native desired Country, and in their Room industrious Tenants, who being born in freedom, by a laudable care, would not only enrich their Landlords, but would raise a hardy Offspring to be the Strength and the honour of the Colony.

Thursday, April 7. Mr. Carter proposes to set away soon after Dinner. He seems, however, to prepare himself for his Journey with all the sedateness of a philosopher. Besides the Commands he gave me yesterday, he desires me to wait on Mr. Willing Merchant in Philadelphia¹ and know if he will trade here for either Flour or Bread in any Quantity. He has given Ben and me an Invitation to ride and spend this Evening with him at Colonel *Taylor's*. We set out about three; Mr. Carter travels in a small, neat *Chair*, with two waiting Men. We rode across the Country which is now in full Bloom; in every field we saw Negroes planting Corn, or plowing, or hoeing; we arrived at the Colonels about five, Distance twelve miles. Here is an elegant Seat!² The House is about the Size of Mr. Carters, built with stone, and finished curiously, and ornamented with various paintings, and rich Pictures. This Gentleman owns *Yorick*, who won the prize of 500£ last November, from Dr. Floods Horse Gift. In the Dining-Room, besides many other fine Pieces, are twenty four of the most celebrated among the English Race-Horses, Drawn masterly, and set in elegant gilt Frames. He has near the great House, two fine two Story stone Houses, the one is used as a Kitchen, and the other, for a nursery, and Lodging Rooms. He has also a large, well formed, beautiful Garden, as fine in every Respect as any I have seen in *Virginia*. In it stand four large beautiful Marble Statues. From this House there is a good prospect of the River *Rappahannock*, which opposite here is about two miles across; We can also from the chambers easily see the Town Hobbes-Hole and the Ships

¹ Thomas Willing (1731-1821), partner with Robert Morris in the great house of Willing and Morris; afterwards president of the Bank of North America, and of the Bank of the United States.

² Mt. Airy, the beautiful home of the Tayloe family, still stands. It was built in 1750, by Col. John Tayloe, and is one of the handsomest of all the old colonial mansions. The interior was destroyed by fire in 1844, but was rebuilt again by Mr. William Tayloe, within the same walls. Situated upon a high hill in Richmond County, it commands an extensive and beautiful view of the Rappahannock River and surrounding country.

which lie there. I was introduced by Mr. *Carter* to the Colonel, to Miss Polly, and to Miss Kitty¹ his daughters, and to a Lady (Mrs. Thornton) that happened there, and to a young Gentleman, Mr. Corbin. The young ladies played several tunes for us, and in good taste on the *Harpsichord*; We supp'd at nine; and had the usual Toasts.

Friday, April 8. The Ladies before breakfast gave us several tunes on the Harpsichord. About ten Mr. Carter set out for *Williamsburg*, to the general Court, which sits twice a year, each Time twenty four Days Sundays excluded. We had some agreeable conversation this morning; Horses seem to be the Colonels favourite topic. He inquired of me however, where I was born; where educated; and if I am pleased with *Virginia*. He told me he saw Dr. Witherspoon, and conversed with him an Evening last Fall, and is much pleased with his manner, and Qualities. He informed me that Dr. *Morgan* of Philadelphia² breakfasted with him a few Days ago; he calls the Doctor facetious, sensible, and prudent. The Colonel desired me to enquire for some Gentleman of undoubted ability to teach in a Family. I shall apply to Mr. *Sam'l Leek jun'r*³ and if he declines I will look no further. Ben and I took our Leave about Eleven, and returned home.

Saturday, April 9. Mrs. Carter gave Ben liberty to go with me as far as Anapolis, provided we set out soon, and accordingly we propose to set off to-morrow or Monday morning, I begin therefore to prepare for the Ride. The Day is rainy and cold, and I am in a vastly disagreeable Humour.⁴

Saturday, May 28. I found Mr. and Mrs. Carter at home sitting together. They received me with great welcome. *Ben, Bob, Miss Fanny* and *Betsy* came in to see me. The others in bed. sup'd on *Crabs* and an elegant dish of Strawberries and cream. How natural, how agreeable, how majestic this place seems!

Sunday, May 29. The family is invited to dine with Mr. Turburville. Mr. and Mrs. *Carter*, Miss Priscilla and Nancy with three Servants went from Church. *Ben, Bob, Miss Fanny, Betsy* and *Harriot* with two Servants cross'd the River. Miss *Sally* with *Tasker* and one Servant rode in a Chair. Dined with us Captain Dennis, of the Ship *Peggy*;

¹ Mary Tayloe, we are told, married Mann Page of Spottsylvania in 1776, while Catharine married Landon Carter of Richmond County in 1780.

² Dr. John Morgan, F.R.S., one of the founders of the medical school at Philadelphia and one of its first and most eminent professors. Perhaps he was now returning from the journey to Jamaica, which he made in 1773 in order to obtain funds for the College of Philadelphia. In 1775 he was appointed by Congress director-general of the military hospitals and physician-in-chief to the American army.

³ Of the class of 1774, then about to graduate at Princeton. As the best scholar in the class, he had been appointed by the faculty to deliver at Commencement the Latin salutatory. But a few days after the date of the text, on April 19, 1774, the trustees vacated the choice on the ground that Leake had taken a prominent part in the burning of Governor Hutchinson in effigy by the students, and had insulted a trustee who opposed their proceedings.

⁴ A vacation intervenes, spent at Fithian's home in New Jersey.

Dr. *Steptoe*; and Mr. *Cunningham*. Politicks were the topic—and indeed the Gentlemen seemed warm. The Governor of this Province dissolved the Assembly last week after they had made a resolve that a general and solemn fast be observed thro' this whole Colony, on Account of the melancholy aspect of American Affairs at present, to be kept the first day of June, which is next Wednesday, when the alarming Act of Parliament which has lately come over is to take place at Boston.¹ Parson Smith accordingly gave it out at the Church to Day and it is to be observed. I only saw Miss Sally Panton, she did not dine with us. I am told She has an Estate in England of 50£ Sterling pr. Annum, but for some unknown cause came over, probably the same as drew me from home. After dinner we had a Grand and agreeable Walk in and through the Gardens. There is great plenty of Strawberries, some Cherries, Gooseberries &c. Drank Coffee at four, they are now too patriotic to use tea. Soon after we set out for Home. The young Ladies chose to walk and Cross the water with us. I am much more pleas'd with the Face of the Country since my return than I have ever been before. It is indeed delightful!

Tuesday, May 31. Very warm. I feel well reliev'd of the Fatigues of my ride. The lower Class of People here are in a tumult on the account of Reports from Boston, many of them expect to be press'd and compelled to go and fight the Britains! Evening I asked the Colonel if he proposed to observe the fast, and attend Sermon to-morrow; he answered that "No one must go from hence to Church, or observe the Fast at all." By this, (for it is hard to know his opinion from any thing he declares) I conclude he is a courtier.

Saturday, June 18. Towards evening 'Squire *Lee* call'd in, and brought a late London NewsPaper in which we are informed that another Act of Parliament has pass'd taking from the People of Boston all power of trying any Soldier, or Person whether for committing any Crime: and obliging all such offenders to be sent home for legal Tryal.² Heaven only knows where these tumults will End! He informed us likewise that last Saturday in Richmond (our neighbor County) the people drest and burnt with great marks of Detestation the infamous Lord *North*. Mrs. *Carter*, after the 'Squire left us quite astonished me in the Course of the evening, with her perfect acquaintance with the American Constitution.

Friday, June 24. To Day in course Mr. Christians Dance happens here. He came before Breakfast. Miss *Jenny Washington*³ came also,

¹ The Boston Port Bill went into operation on June 1, 1774. On May 24, 1774, the Virginia House of Burgesses passed a resolution expressing sympathy with the people of Boston, and declaring it "highly necessary that the said first day of June next be set apart by the members of this house, as a day of fasting, humiliation, and prayer, devoutly to implore the Divine interposition for averting the heavy calamity which threatens destruction to our civil rights, and the evils of civil war." In consequence of this act, Governor Dunmore on the following day dissolved the house.

² 14 Geo. III. c. 39.

³ Presumably Gen. Washington's niece, the daughter of John Augustine Washington and sister of Bushrod Washington. She subsequently married her cousin Col. William Augustine Washington.

and Miss *Priscilla Hale* while we were at Breakfast. Miss Washington is about seventeen ; She has not a handsome Face, but is neat in her Dress, of an agreeable Size, and well proportioned, and has an easy winning Behaviour ; She is not forward to begin a conversation, yet when spoken to she is extremely affable, without assuming any Girlish affectation, or pretending to be overcharg'd with Wit ; She has but lately had opportunity of Instruction in Dancing, yet She moves with propriety when she dances a *Minuet* and without any *Flirts* or vulgar *Capers*, when She dances a *Reel* or *Country-Dance* : She plays well on the Harpsichord, and Spinnet ; understands the principles of Musick, and therefore performs her Tunes in perfect time, a Neglect of which always makes music intolerable, but it is a fault almost universal among young Ladies in the practice ; She sings likewise to her instrument, has a strong, full voice, and a well-judging Ear ; but most of the Virginia-Girls think it labour quite sufficient to thump the Keys of a Harpsichord into the air of a tune mechanically, and think it would be Slavery to submit to the Drudgery of acquiring Vocal Music ; Her Dress is rich and well-chosen, but not tawdry, nor yet too plain ; She appears to Day in a Chintz cotton Gown with an elegant blue Stamp, a Sky-Blue silk Quilt, spotted Apron ; Her Hair is a light Brown, it was crap'd up, with two Rolls at each Side, and on the top a small cap of beautiful Gauze and rich Lace, with an artificial flower interwoven. Her person and carriage at a small distance resembles not a little my much respected *Laura*. But on close examination her Features are something masculine, those of *Laura* are mild and delicate. Mr. *Christien* very politely requested me to open the Dance by stepping a Minuet with this amiable Girl, but I excused myself by assuring Him that I never was taught to Dance. Miss Hale is about fourteen ; a slim, puny silent Virgin ; She has black Eyes, and black Hair, a good sett of Eye-Brows, which are esteem'd in Virginia essential to Beauty ; She looks innocent of every human Failing, does not speak five Words in a Week, and I dare say from her Carriage that her Modesty is invincible ; She is drest in a white Holland Gown, cotton Diaper Quilt very fine, a Lawn apron, has her Hair crap'd up ; and on it a small Tuft of Ribbon for a Cap She is but just innitiated into the School, and only hobbles yet Once I saw her standing ; I rose immediately and begg'd her to accept my Chair ; She answered most kindly, " Sir I thank you," that was all I could extract from this Wonder of the Sex for the two Days she stay'd, and I seemed to have an equal Share too in the Favours of her Conversation ; so that I cannot be any way particular in describing the mental faculties of Miss *Hale*, it is sufficient to say that I think she is far removed from most of the foibles of Women. Some time after these came Colonel Lee's Chariot with five young Misses. These five, with Miss Washington and Miss Hale and Miss Nancy Carter, and Bob are Mr. Christiens Compliment of Scholars in this School except Miss Turburville who is just now up the country with an Uncle, where She is to Stay some time together with Miss Corbin. Miss Betsy Lee¹ is about

¹ Probably Elizabeth, daughter of John Lee of Essex, a nephew of President Thomas Lee.

thirteen ; a tall slim genteel Girl ; She is very far from Miss Hale's taciturnity, yet is by no means disagreeably forward ; She dances extremely well, and is just beginning to play the Spinnet She is drest in a neat shell Callico Gown, has very light Hair done up with a Feather, and her whole carriage is easy inoffensive, and graceful. The other Miss Lee's are small Towards evening came in George Lee, and Mr. *Grubb*, an English Gentleman ; the Company danced after candle-light a Minuet round, three Country-Dances, several Reels, when we were rung to Supper after Supper we set til twelve drinking loyal Toasts.

Sunday, July 10. A Sunday in Virginia dont seem to wear the Same Dress as our Sundays to the Northward. Generally here by five o-Clock on Saturday every Face (especially the Negroes) looks festive and cheerful. All the lower class of People, and the Servants, and the Slaves, consider it as a Day of Pleasure and amusement, and spend it in such Diversions as they severally choose. The Gentlemen go to Church to be sure, but they make that itself a matter of convenience, and account the Church a useful weekly resort to do Business.

Saturday, July 16. [Invited to accompany the colonel on a trip, by water, down the River Machodock to the Potowack, then up the Nomini]. The *Colonel*, *Ben* and *myself* rode on Horse-back about Six to Mr. *Atwells* ; four lusty, hearty Men had gone on foot before who were Oarsmen ; Here we were to enter a Boat never Rowed before, and proceed down the River Machodock to Mr. *Carters* Store-Houses which are now building near the mouth of that River. But I am going to venture upon a Description of a Scene which I am sure I will not do Justice to—A Scetch of three Rivers—Their Beautiful Banks—Several Gentlemens Seats—Their commodious harbours—In particular that near which Mr. *Carter* is erecting Store-Houses. The whole is to be an account of our peregrination this 16th burning day of July 1774.

I have said, that we rode on Horseback to Mr. *Atwells* where we were to go on board and have our Horses sent back. This House is called six Miles from the mouth of Machodock. It stands on the Bank of the River ; The Boat that carried us is built for the purpose of carrying the young Ladies and others of the Family to Nominy Church. It is a light neat *Battoe* elegantly painted and is rowed with four Oars. We went on board ; The Sun beamed down upon us, but we had each an UMBERELLA. The River is here about Gunshot over ; the Banks are pretty low, but hard to the very Water. I was delighted to see Corn and Tobacco growing, or Cattle and Sheep feeding along the Brink of this River on both Sides, or else Groves of Pines, Savins and Oaks growing to the side of the Bank. We passed by an elegant small Seat of Mr. *Beal* ; it was small, but it was neat. We arrived at Mr. *Carters* Store-Houses in 50 minutes, they are 5 Miles from Mr. *Atwells*, and one from Potowmack. These Houses are building for the reception of Iron, Bread, Flour &c. there are two Houses each 46 Feet long by 20. They stand at the Bottom of a Bay which is a safe and spacious harbour. Here we Breakfasted at ten, At twelve we pushed off from thence and rowed by parson Smiths Glebe

and in sight of his house in to the broad beautiful Potowmack. I think it is here ten Miles or twelve over has a fine high hard Bank ; no Marshes, but Cornfields, Trees or Grass ! Up the lovely Water we were rowed six Miles into the Mouth of Nominy. We went on Board a small Schooner from *Norfolk* which lay in Nominy-Bay. Mr. Carter is loading her with Flour and Iron. Here we were in sight of Stratford,¹ Colonel Lee's Seat. We were in sight too of Captain Cheltons. And of Colonel Washington's² Seat at Bushfield. From the Schooner we Rowed up Nominy-River. I have forgot to remark before that from the time of our setting out as we were going down Machodock, and along the Potowmack-Shore, and especially as we were rowing up Nominy we saw Fishermen in great numbers in Canoes, and almost constantly taking in Fish, Bass and Perch. This was beautiful ! The entrance of Nomini is very shoal, and stony, the Channel is very narrow, and lies close to the Eastermost Side. On the edges of these shoals, or in Holes between the Rocks is plenty of Fish. The Banks of Nominy are steep and vastly high, twenty or thirty Feet, and in some places almost perpendicular ; The Course of the River is crooked, and the prospects on each Side vastly romantic and diversified. We arrived at the Granary near Nominy-Hall about six. I went to my room to take off an Account of the expedition.

Tuesday, August 2. Ben and I drest ourselves pretty early with an intention to Breakfast with Colonel *Tayloe*, but the Servant who went with us was so slow in preparing that we breakfasted before we set out. We arrived at Colonel *Tayloe's* however by half after nine. The young Ladies we found in the Hall playing the Harpsichord. The morning cool with a fine Breeze from the North for I forgot to mention that about Midnight last Night a violent Gust of Blackness, Rain and Thunder came on and gave us present Relief from the scorching Sun ; there was no Dust and the riding was pleasant. The Colonel, his Lady, Miss Polly, Miss Kitty, Miss Sally,³ rode in their Great Coach to the Ferry. Distance about 4 miles. Ben and I on Horseback. From Colonel *Tayloe's* to this Ferry opposite to Hobbs's Hole the Land is level and extremely good ; Corn here looks very rank is set thick with Ears, and they are high and large, three commonly on a Stalk. Here I saw about an Acre and a half of Flax, which the people were just pulling, exceedingly out of Season. This is the only Flax I have seen since I have been in the Colony ; I am told they raise much in the upper Counties. Here too is a great Marsh covered with thick high Reed. The Face of this part of the Country looks fertile, but I apprehend it is far from being healthy. We came to the Bank of the Rappahannock ; it is here about 2 Miles over the Shipping on the other Side near the Town lying at Anchor looks fine ; no large Vessels can haul along the Wharves on account of shoal Water. There were six Ships riding in the Harbour, and a number of

¹ The famous old mansion at Stratford (see Lee's *Lee of Virginia*, pp. 114-120) was at this time occupied by Col. Philip Ludwell Lee.

² Col. John Augustine Washington, the future general's younger brother.

³ Afterward the third wife of Col. William Augustine Washington.

Schooners and smaller Vessels. Indeed, says Mrs. *Taylor*, Captain *Dobby* has forgot us, here we have been waiting for a full half hour, shall we take the Ferry Boat Colonel and cross over, and not stand any longer in the burning heat? I was pleased not a little with the proposal, tho' at the same time, I laughed with myself at Mrs. *Taylor*'s truly Womanish impatience! At last they are coming. The long-Boat came, well furnished with a large Awning, and rowed with four Oars. We entered the Ship about half after twelve where we were received by Captain *Dobby*, with every possible token of welcome.

Since I have been in Virginia, my inclination, and my fixed purpose before I left home, both of which were very much assisted by a strict Attention to the instructing my little Charge, these have kept me pretty constantly, almost wholly, indeed out of that kind of Company where dissipation and Pleasure have no restraint. This entertainment of Captain *Dobby*'s, elegant indeed, and exceedingly agreeable, I consider as one among a prodigious throng of more powerful similar Causes, of the fevers and other Disorders which are common in this Colony, and generally attributed to the Climate which is thought to be noxious and unhealthy. The Weather here indeed is remarkably variable But taking away and changing the usual and necessary Time of Rest; Violent Exercise of the Body and Spirits; with drinking great quantities of variety of Liquors, these bring on Virginia Fevers. The *Beaufort* is a stately Ship; Captain *Dobby* had an Awning from the Stern over the Quarter quite to the Mizen-Mast, which made great Room, kept off the Sun, and yet was open on each Side to give the Air a free passage. At three we had on Board about 45 Ladies, and about 60 Gentlemen besides the Ships Crew, and Waiters, Servants &c. We were not throng'd at all, and dined all at twice. I was not able to inform myself, because it seemed improper to interrupt the General pleasure, with making circumstantial inquiries concerning Individuals, and saying pray, Sir, what young Lady is that yonder in a Lute-String Gown? She seems genteel; where does her Father live? Is she a Girl of Family and Breeding? Has She any Suitors? This when one could not be out of the Inspection of the Company, would have seemed impertinent so that I did not much enlarge my Acquaintance with the Ladies, which commonly seems pleasing and desirable to me; But I took Notice of Several, and shall record my remarks.

The Boats were to Start, to use the Language of Jockeys, immediately after Dinner; A Boat was anchored down the River at a Mile Distance; Captain *Dobby* and Captain *Benson* steer'd the Boats in the Race. Captain *Benson* had 5 Oarsmen; Captain *Dobby* had 6. It was *Ebb-Tide*. The Betts were small, and chiefly given to the Negroes who rowed. Captain *Benson* won the first race. Captain *Purchase* offered to bett ten Dollars that with the same Boat and same Hands, only having Liberty to put a small Weight in the Stern, he would beat Captain *Benson*. He was taken, and came out best only half the Boats Length. About Sunset we left the Ship and went all to Hobbs's Hole, where a *Ball* was agreed on. This is a small Village, with only a few Stores, and Shops, it is on a

beautiful River, and has I am told commonly six, eight and ten Ships loading before it the Crews of which enliven the Town. Mr. Ritche Merchant ; he has great influence over the People, he has great Wealth ; which in these scurvy Times gives Sanction to Power ; nay it seems to give countenance to Tyranny.

———The Ball Room———

25 Ladies—40 Gentlemen—The Room very long, well-finished, airy and cool, and well-seated—two Fidlers. Mr. *Ritche* stalk'd about the Room. He was Director, and appointed a sturdy two fisted Gentleman to open the Ball with Mrs. *Tayloe*. He danced midling tho'. There were about six or eight married Ladies. At last Miss *Ritche* danced a Minuet with———She is a tall slim Girl, dances nimble and graceful. She was *Ben Carters* partner. Poor Girl She has had the third Day Ague for twelve months past, and has it yet She appeared in a blue Silk Gown ; Her Hair was done up neat, without powder, it is very Black and Set her to good Advantage. Soon after her danced Miss *Dolly Edmundson*—A Short pretty Stump of a Girl ; She danced well, sung a Song with great applause, seemed to enter into the Spirit of the entertainment. A young Spark seemed to be fond of her ; She seemed to be fond of him ; they were both fond, and the Company saw it. He was Mr. *Ritche's* Clerk, a limber, well dress'd, pretty-handsome Chap he was. The insinuating Rogue waited on her home, in close Hugg too, the moment he left the Ball-Room. Miss *Aphia Fantleroy* danced next, the best dancer of the whole absolutely. And the finest Girl. Her head tho' was powdered white as Snow, and crap'd in the newest Taste. She is the Copy of the goddess of Modesty. Very handsome ; she seemed to be loved by all her Acquaintances, and admired by every Stranger. Miss *McCall*——Miss *Ford*——Miss *Brokenberry*——*Ball*——Two of the younger Miss *Ritche's*——Miss *Wade*.—They danc'd till half after two, Captain *Ritche* invited Ben and I, Colonel *Tayloe* and his Family with him. We got to Bed by three after a Day spent in constant Violent exercise, and drinking an unusual Quantity of Liquor ; for my part with Fatigue, Heat, Liquor, Noise, Want of sleep, And the exertion of my Animal spirits, I was almost brought to believe several times that I felt a Fever fixing upon me, attended with every Symptom of the Fall Disorders.

Wednesday, August 3. We were call'd up to Breakfast at half after eight. We all look'd dull, pale, and haggard ! From our Beds to Breakfast. Here we must drink Hot Coffee on our parching Stomachs ! But the Company was enlivening—Three of the Miss *Tayloe's*—Three Miss *Ritche's*—And Miss *Fantleroy*. This loveliest of all the *Ring* is yet far below—*Laura* If they were set together for the choice of an utter Stranger ; he would not reflect, but in a moment spring to the Girl that I mean to regard. After Breakfast the young Ladies favoured us with several Tunes on the Harpsichord. They all play and most of them in good Taste. at eleven we went down to the River ; the Ships Long Boat was waiting. Captain *Purchase* of the *Beaufort*, helped us on Board.

I gave the Boatswain a Pisterene for his trouble. Half a Bit for the Pasture of my Horse. We rode to Colonel Tayloe's. The Ladies all retired for a nap before Dinner, we sat in the Hall, and conversed with the Colonel a sensible, agreeable sociable person. Miss *Garrot* is Governess of the young Ladies; She too is chatty, satirical, neat, civil, had many merry remarks at Dinner, we staid til about six took our Leave, and rode Home. Found all well; gave an account of ourselves, of our entertainment, and of our Company to Mr. and Mrs. Carter at Coffee, and retired soon to Bed.

Saturday, August 13. Evening came in Colonel *Henry Lee*. He is chosen¹ to be one of the seven who represent this Colony in the General Congress to be held next Month in Philadelphia. He sets out next Sunday Sennight.

Thursday, August 25. Still stormy. The Gentlemen who are sailing up the Bay to the Congress have a disagreeable time. This is a true August Northeaster, as we call it in Cohansie. *Ben* is in a wonderful *Fluster* lest he shall have no company to-morrow at the Dance. But blow high, blow low, he need not be afraid; *Virginians* are of genuine Blood. They will dance or die! I wrote some at my *Letter* for Mr. *Peck*.² The people here pronounce shower "Sho-er." And what in New Jersey we call a Vendue here they [call] a "Sale." All Taverns they call "Ordinary's." When a Horse is frolicsome and brisk, they say at once he is "gayly." She is mischievous, they call him "vicious." At five, with *Ben*, I rode out for exercise. After a while we arrived at *George Lee's*. He gave us some excellent Peaches. He returned with us to Mr. *Turberville's*. We met here with Miss *Betsy Lee*,³ Mr. *Grubb*, *Lancelot Lee* and here we spent the evening. *Fish-Feasts*, and *Fillies*, Loud disputes concerning the Excellence of each others Colts—Concerning their Fathers, Mothers (for so they call the Dams) Brothers, Sisters, Uncles, Aunts, Nephews, Nieces, and Cousins to the fourth Degree! All the Evening Toddy constantly circulating. Supper came in, and at Supper I had a full, broad, satisfying view of Miss *Sally Panton*. I wanted to hear her converse, but poor Girl anything She attempted to say was drowned in the more polite and useful Jargon about Dogs and Horses! For my Part, as I was unwilling to be singular, if I attempted to push in a word, I was seldom heard, and never regarded, and yet they were constantly refering their Cases to me, as to a supposed honest fellow, I suppose because I wear a black Coat, and am generally silent; at Home I am thought to be noisy enough; here I am thought to be silent and circumspect as a *Spy*. How different the Manners of the People! I try to be as cheerful as I can, and yet I am blamed for being stupid as a Nun.

Monday, September 12. We threatned having a Fire this morning. I wrote at my Sermon. From the Ship lying at *Leeds*, arrived this after-

¹ By the first convention of Virginia, early in August. R. H. Lee is intended.

² John Peck, Princeton 1774, who on Fithian's recommendation succeeded him as tutor at Nominy Hall.

³ Presumably the sister of George and Lancelot, not the one mentioned on p. 310.

noon our new Coach. It is a plain carriage, upper part black, lower Sage or Pea-Green. The Harness is neat strong, and suitable for the Country. Price 120£ Sterling. In the same Ship Mrs. *Carter* imports about 30£ value in plate in a pair of fashionable Goblets; Pair of beautiful Sauce-Cups; and a Pair of elegant Decanter-Holders. *Ben* introduced into our Room a plain useful Book-Case, in which we class and place our Books in order. after School, I took a Book, and walked through the Pasture strolling among Horses, Cows, and Sheep, grazing on the Hills and by the River.

Friday, September 16. Mrs. *Carter*, this morning, with *Prissy*, *Nancy*, and *Bob* went in the New-Coach to the *Dance* at Stratford,¹ the morning is mild, fair and cool. The Colonel informed me that now his Mill-House Bake Houses, Store Houses &c. with a clear unobstructed navigation is completed, and that, he will rent them all to a Person properly qualified, or gladly employ a person who is capable, trusty and industrious enough to be the sole Director of so great and valuable Property. Dined with us captain Walker. He threw out several exceeding unpopular Sentiments with regard to the present amazing Disturbances through the Colonies. One in special I think proper to record because it fixes his Character, and declares him, in Spite of all pretence, an enemy to America. He asserted that no Officers (at Boston or elsewhere) are obliged, either by Law, or Right, to question or refuse any kind of orders which they receive from their Sovereign, or commanding Officer. But I count every man, who possesses and publishes such sentiments in this Crisis of the Fate of a vast Empire, as great an enemy to America at least, as Milton's *Arch-Devil* was to Mankind!

Monday, September 19. The morning fine and cool, and produces in our School at last a fine Fire! Fire looks and feels most welcome; and I observe it makes our children remarkably garrulous and noisy. I took cold by Saturdays unusual exercise, and to Day have a Pain through my head, sore throat, and the other common troubles in a Cold. This Day begins the examination of the Junior class at Nassau-Hall. Every time I reflect on that Place of retirement and Study, where I spent two years which I call the most pleasant as well as the most important Period in my past life—Always when I think upon the *Studies*, the *Discipline*, the *Companions*, the *Neighbourhood*, the *exercises*, and *Diversions*, it gives me a secret and real Pleasure, even the Foibles which often prevail there are pleasant on recollection; such as giving each other *names and characters*; Meeting and Shoving in the dark entries: knocking at Doors and going off without entering; Strowing the entries in the night with greasy Feathers; freezing the Bell; Ringing it at late Hours of the Night;—I may add that it does not seem disagreeable to think over the Mischiefs often practised by wanton Boys—Such are writing witty pointed anonymous Papers, in *Songs*, *Confessions*, *Wills*, *Soliliques*, *Proclamations*, *Advertisements* &c—Picking from the neighbourhood now and then a plump fat Hen or Turkey for the private entertainment of the Club

¹ The house of Col. Philip Ludwell Lee. See above, p. 297, note 1; p. 312, note 1.

“instituted for inventing and practising several new kinds of mischief in a secret polite Manner”—Parading bad Women—Burning Curse-John—Darting Sun-Beams upon the Town-People Reconnoitering Houses in the Town, and ogling Women with the Telescope—Making Squibs, and other frightful compositions with Gun-Powder, and lighting them in the Rooms of timorous Boys and *new comers*—The various methods used in naturalizing Strangers, of incivility in the Dining-Room to make them bold ; writing them sharp and threatening Letters to make them smart ; leading them at first with long Lessons to make them industrious—And trying them by Jeers and Repartee in order to make them choose their Companions &c &c.

Sunday, September 25. The morning clear cool and very dry. I rode to Ucomico-Church. I was surprised when the Psalm begun, to hear a large Collection of voices singing at the same time, from a Gallery, entirely contrary to what I have seen before in the Colony, for it is seldom in the fullest Congregation's, that more sing than the Clerk, and about two others ! I am told that a singing Master of good abilities has been among this society lately and put them on the respectable Method which they, at present pursue. I dined at Mr. *Fishers*, among others, I saw there, Dr. *Steptoe*, and Mr. *Hamilton* who have lately been to Philadelphia. They give various reports concerning political affairs, and as to the Congress nothing certain, so that I say nothing on that Score. Their Remarks on the City and Inhabitants: The Country &c are curious. They allow the City to be fine, neat, and large ; they complain a little of the small Rooms, Uniformity of the Buildings, and several other like faults. They call the Inhabitants grave and reserved ; and the Women remarkably homely, hard favour'd and sour ! One Colonel Harrison¹ from a lower County in this Colony, offer'd to give a Guinea for every handsome Face that could be found in the City, if any one would put a Copper on every Face that did not come up to that Character ! This is an impeachment of the Ladies which I have never heard before. I do not give my opinion either for or against it. The face of the Country, and the method of farming that way delights them : but at this I dont wonder.

Friday, September 30. Warm, but clear and dry. Dined with us Mr. *Blain* ; he gave us a large account of affairs at the Congress, of the City, Country, Manners, Persons, Trade &c. But he swears the Women are coarse and hardy. Evening I informed the Colonel that it is hardly probable I shall continue in his family til his return from the general Court. And at the same time, desired him to give me a discharge, so that I expect to have all things adjusted before he leaves Home. We have now entered on the Winter plan, have Coffee just at evening and Supper between eight and nine o-Clock. It is wonderful to consider the Consumption of provisions in this family. I have before spoken of Meat, and the steady Rate of flour weekly, for the great House is 100 Lb of which 50 is the finest, and 50 the Seconds. But all the Negroes, and most of the Labourers eat Corn.

¹ Doubtless Col. Benjamin Harrison, the signer.

Monday, October 3. After Breakfast the Colonel settled and paid me for my Years Service 40£ Sterling. This is better than the scurvy annuity commonly allowed to the Presbyterian Clergy. He is very Busy in adjusting his affairs, he set out however, by twelve for Williamsburg, after taking final leave of me. *Ben* accompanies him to Richmond Court. Afternoon Miss Corbin and Miss Turberville came in to stay a while with Mrs. *Carter*.

Bob went yesterday to Mr. Lanes there was Parson *Gibbern* ill of his last weeks Bout; he was up three nights successively drinking and playing at Cards, so that the liquor and want of sleep put him quite out of his Sences. A rare tale this to relate of a Man of God! To use the language of the vulgar, "Old Satan will sadly belabour such overgrown Sinners"!

Wednesday, October 12. I was told often before I left Home that coming into Virginia would bring me into the midst of many dangerous Temptations; Gay Company, frequent entertainments, little practical devotion, no remote pretention to Heart religion, daily examples in Men of the highest quality of Luxury, intemperance, and impiety; these were urged, by my kind acquaintances, as very strong dissuasions against my leaving home; the admonitions I accepted with great Thankfulness, tho' I could not allow them to turn me off from my purpose and I resolved with as much sincerity and Firmness as I could to carry them with me in every part of my behaviour. The close of the time of my Stay here is I expect now near at hand: And if I may judge myself of the carrying my resolutions into practice, I should pronounce that I have not been wanting in my duty in this respect. Some few who frequently ask me to go from home, say I am dull, unsociable, and splenetic: But the Gentlemen generally here have a good and reasonable manner of judging in this case they are well pleased with strict and rigid virtue, in those who have the management of their children, if it does not grow to factious enthusiasm; so that Levity, tho' perhaps they would wink at it lessens, and in a while would take away the Reputation and business of a Family Tutor. Of this I was fully convinced in a short time after my coming into the Colony, and saw too the very great advantage of the Precaution which I received of my friends, for they assisted me in setting out in a safe and prudent Plan, which has, I hope directed me to propriety of conduct with regard to my private character, and likewise to my little lovely Charge.¹

Tuesday, December 6. The Committee, Messrs. Greenman, Chesnut, Green, Achan and Hollingshead, met at Pittsgrove according to appointment; It was opened with a Sermon, by Mr. Hollingshead. Soon after which they proceeded to examine me in natural and Moral Philosophy, Geography, and divinity. All which they finished about nine in the evening and then gave me a Licence to preach the Gospel. I feel

¹ The writer left Nominy Hall on October 20, and reached his home in southern New Jersey on the 25th. His final trials before the Presbytery at Neshaminy began on November 3, but were adjourned to December 6, 1774.

myself not able ; I feel myself unqualified ; I feel myself unworthy, and every way vastly unequal to this great undertaking. Give me Strength, O Shepherd of Israel ; furnish me with every necessary qualification ; with wisdom, Fidelity, Zeal, Prudence and Perseverance. May I have in my own heart much of the meekness and Spirit of the Gospel, and may I have a sense of my duty in these times of distraction and Misery. Furnish me with an uniform and unbiass'd love for my country and give me courage to engage in every method that has a tendency to save her from Ruin, even if my life should be in Danger in the Competition.¹

¹ Within two years Philip Fithian, as has been mentioned in the introduction, died in the service of his country.